

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.131_Influenza (23 – 29 October 2017)

According to the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 16 October 2017, there were 152,594 influenza patients with 36 deaths. Most of the influenza cases were in the 15 – 24 years (12.53%), 10 - 14 years (10.63%), and 35 - 44 years (10.27%) age groups respectively.

During the previous weeks, influenza B was the predominant type found. The trend of finding this influenza virus type is also increasing. Last week, there were 4 influenza outbreaks in provinces including Songkhla, Phitsanulok and Phichit (prison outbreaks) and Bangkok (school outbreak).



According to this week disease forecast, the occurrence of influenza is likely to continue especially in some areas with frequent rain and areas with cold weather. Moreover, there will be mass gatherings of people during the royal cremation ceremony across the country.

The Department of Disease Control advises people to protect themselves well from the disease by eating good food, and having enough sleep and regular exercise. Preventive measures should be followed, i.e. “cover, wash, avoid, and be absent” **Cover** - wear face masks when having symptoms of flu such as coughing, sneezing, and runny nose; **Wash** - wash hands often; **Avoid** - avoiding close contact with ILI patient; **Be absent** - patients with flu symptoms should be absent from school, work, and activities in crowded or poorly ventilated places to prevent the spread of influenza virus to others. Influenza patient needs symptomatic care, enough drinking water and rest for fast recovery. Patients with high fever, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and dyspnea, especially people at high risk of serious influenza, should seek medical care at a hospital immediately.

At the mass gathering venues, special medical teams are ready to provide the people with advice, care and medical supplies such as alcohol gel hand sanitizer and protective face mask.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.



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